

Applicants : Helmut Gross et al.
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A device for die-cutting a stack of sheet materials, comprising:

a punch platen;

a hollow die-cutter blade;

a frame for receiving and retaining the die-cutter blade, wherein the die-cutter blade is adjustable relative to the frame;

a receiving apparatus adjustably mounted to the punch platen, wherein the receiving apparatus receives and retains the frame; and

a cylinder including a moveable ram for engaging a stack of sheet materials and pressing the sheet materials into the die-cutter blade, wherein an initial position of the punch platen is maintained with respect to the cylinder during operation of the moveable ram, wherein the frame is slideable in a plane parallel to the punch platen and tiltable with respect to the plane, and wherein the frame is adjustable with respect to both orthogonal plane axes.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the receiving apparatus includes two adjustable parallel gibs which accept the frame.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the gibs are wedged-shaped and the frame is positioned between the gibs and the punch platen.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 31, wherein the gibs are wedged-shaped and the frame is positioned between the gibs and the punch platen ~~frame is slideable in a plane~~

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~~parallel to the punch platen and tiltable with respect to the plane, and wherein the frame is adjustable with respect to both orthogonal plane axes.~~

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 18, wherein the frame includes a t-slot for receiving a centering bolt that is mounted in the punch platen.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 19, further including:

a pair of servomotors mounted in the punch platen, wherein the position of the gibs is controlled by the servomotors, and wherein one of the servomotors controls the tilt of a first end of the gibs and the remaining servomotor controls both the tilt and slide of a second end of the gibs that is opposite the first end of the gibs.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the direction of adjustment for the servomotors is essentially perpendicular to the direction of adjustment for the centering bolt.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[16]] 31, further including:

a clamping element mounted in one of the gibs, wherein the clamping element presses the frame against the other gib when the frame is in a desired position thereby fixing the relationship of the receiving apparatus and the frame.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[16]] 31, wherein the adjustment of the gibs is facilitated with electric motors.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the clamping element is a pneumatic cylinder that engages the centering bolt to retain the frame and the receiving apparatus in the fixed relationship.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[15]] 31, further including:

an adjusting element mounted in the frame for facilitating alignment of a knife edge portion of the die-cutter blade with respect to the frame.

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26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein the adjusting element is an adjusting ruler.

27. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 31, wherein the frame further includes:

a frame portion;

a primary clamping beam which is slideable with respect to the frame portion and fixable to parallel lateral legs of the frame portion, wherein the die cutter blade is retained between one of a pair of short legs of the frame portion and the primary clamping beam; and

a secondary clamping beam which is slideable with respect to the frame portion and fixable to the parallel lateral legs of the frame portion, wherein the secondary clamping beam is parallel to the primary clamping beam and includes clamping agents that are adjustable to apply a force against the primary clamping beam.

28. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 31, wherein the frame further includes:

a frame portion; and

at least one clamping beam which is adjustable with respect to the frame portion and fixable to parallel lateral legs of the frame portion, wherein the die-cutter blade is retained between one of a pair of parallel short legs of the frame portion and the primary clamping beam, and wherein each end of the clamping beam and the frame portion associated with the pair of parallel short legs are in contact with the punch platen.

29. (Not Entered)

30. (Currently Amended) A device for die-cutting a stack of sheet materials, comprising:

a punch platen;

a hollow die-cutter blade;

a frame for receiving and retaining the die-cutter blade, wherein the die-cutter blade is adjustable relative to the frame;

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a receiving apparatus adjustably mounted to the punch platen, wherein the receiving apparatus receives and retains the frame and includes at least two adjustable gibs which accept the frame; and

a cylinder including a moveable ram for engaging a stack of sheet materials and pressing the sheet materials into the die-cutter blade, wherein an initial position of the punch platen is maintained with respect to the cylinder during operation of the moveable ram, and wherein the frame is received by the receiving apparatus in a direction that is perpendicular to the motion of the movable ram.

31. (Previously Presented) A device for die-cutting a stack of sheet materials, comprising:

a punch platen;

a hollow die-cutter blade;

a frame for receiving and retaining the die-cutter blade, wherein the die-cutter blade is adjustable relative to the frame;

a receiving apparatus adjustably mounted to the punch platen, wherein the receiving apparatus receives and retains the frame and includes two adjustable parallel gibs which accept the frame; and

a cylinder including a moveable ram for engaging a stack of sheet materials and pressing the sheet materials into the die-cutter blade.